

In the Claims

Claims remaining in the application are as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for handling image data within a digital camera having a memory storage unit for storing image data, the camera connectable to an external information handling system adapted to receive image data from the camera, the method comprising:

storing image data elements ~~consecutively~~ in an image storage queue in a chronological order based on time of image capture by the camera; ~~;~~  
assigning each image data element ~~having~~ an archival status; ~~and~~  
indicating said archival status of said image data element; ~~and~~  
determining capacity for the camera to add additional image data elements to the image storage queue as a function of said archival status and said chronological order in combination.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising associating each said image data element with a header, wherein ~~said indicating comprises providing an indicator in~~ said header stores information relating to image data element archival status and time and date of associated image data capture.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each said image data element has a filename for identifying the image data element in a directory system, and wherein said indicating comprises naming said filename to indicate said archival status.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said indicating comprises:

creating an organizational structure comprising a file system directory including a reserved location for archived image data elements; and  
placing archived image data elements in said reserved location.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
archiving one said image data element, said archiving comprising copying said image data element to the external information handling system; and

changing said archival status of said image data element to indicate that said data element is archived.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising associating each said image data element with a header, wherein said changing said archival status comprises changing the contents of said header.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said header comprises a data bit indicating archival status, wherein said changing the contents of said header comprises inverting said data bit.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said image data element has a filename for identifying the image data element in a directory system comprising at least one character, and wherein said changing comprises altering said filename by at least one character.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising receiving a selection of one said image data element for archiving.

10. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said archiving comprises: connecting the camera to the external information handling system; and copying said image data element from the memory storage unit in the camera to the external information handling system.

11. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the memory storage unit includes a removable storage medium, and wherein said archiving comprises: removing the removable storage medium from the camera; connecting the removable storage medium to the external information handling system; and copying said image data element from the removable storage medium to the external information handling system.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
determining that the memory storage unit is full;  
determining that at least one said image data element in said image storage queue has  
been archived; and  
deleting from the memory storage unit at least one said archived image data element  
according to the chronological order.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said deleting  
comprises deleting the ~~last said~~ oldest archived data element in said image storage queue  
from the memory storage unit.

14. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
determining that the memory storage unit is full;  
determining that no said image data element in said image storage queue has been  
archived; and  
notifying a user that the memory storage unit is full.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:  
receiving a selection of an image data element for deletion; and  
deleting said selected image data element from the memory storage unit.

16. (Currently Amended) A digital camera adapted for connection to an external  
information handling system, the camera comprising:  
~~a controller;~~  
an image acquisition unit ~~electrically connected to said controller; and~~  
a memory storage unit coupled to the image acquisition unit and configured to store a  
plurality of ; wherein image data elements each having an archival status  
stored in said memory storage unit chronologically based on time of image  
capture in an image storage queue ; and  
a controller coupled to the image acquisition unit and coupled to the memory storage  
unit, the controller assigning each image data element an archival status,  
indicating said archival status of said image data element, and determining  
capacity for the camera to add additional image data elements to the image

storage queue as a function of said archival status and said chronological order in combination.

17. (Original) The camera of claim 16, wherein said memory storage unit comprises media removable from the camera.

18. (Currently Amended): A computer program product for controlling the handling of image data within a digital camera having a memory storage unit for storing image data, the camera connectable to an external information handling system adapted to receive image data from the camera, the computer program product comprising:  
instructions for storing image data elements ~~consecutively~~ in an image storage queue in a chronological order based on time of image capture by the camera, each image data element having an archival status; and  
instructions for indicating said archival status of said image data element; and  
instructions for determining capacity for the camera to add additional image data elements to the image storage queue as a function of said archival status and said chronological order in combination.

19. (Original) The computer program product of claim 18, further comprising:  
instructions for archiving one said image data element, said archiving comprising copying said image data element to the external information handling system; and  
instructions for changing said archival status of said image data element to indicate that said data element is archived.

20. (Currently Amended): The computer program product of claim 19, further comprising:  
instructions for determining that the memory storage unit is full;  
instructions for determining that at least one said image data element in said image storage queue has been archived; and  
instructions for deleting from the memory storage unit at least one said archived image data element according to the chronological order.